

blue, and tipped with white more largely on the inner than on the outer feathers ; centre tail feathers above, greenish on the inner webs, blue on the outer ; the rest blackish at the base, blue on the outer webs, the anterior third of each feather light blue and tipped with white, the spot increasing in size as the feather is more internal. Bill, bluish at the base, whitish at the tip (probably faded), feet dark brown ; iris, in a young living example, dark hazel.

*Hab.* Interior of New South Wales.

My attention was drawn to this species some two years ago by Mr. George Masters, the late Assistant Curator of the Australian Museum ; and although the bird could not in any way be referred to any known member of the genus, I had great doubts of its proving to be a good species, being rather inclined, from the great variegation and ununiformity of its markings, to consider it a hybrid, or cross between some of the smaller species. However, having lately found another, although immature, but having the same characteristic *red front*, and *upper tail coverts*, blue wings and yellowish-green under surface, I have hesitated no longer to describe it as new, and in compliment to Mr. George Masters, who first drew my attention to it, have named it after that gentleman. The adult specimen above described is one of the few relics of our early explorers that I found left in the Museum. The young bird referred to has been recently obtained in the interior northern portion of New South Wales.

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Description of a new species of *Pelodryas*, from New Ireland—by  
E. P. RAMSAY, F.L.S., &c., Curator of the Australian Museum,  
Sydney.

#### FAMILY PELODRIADÆ.

##### PELODRYAS MILITARIUS, SP. NOV.

Above dull green, bluish in spirits ; below dull yellowish, a rosy line on outer cutaneous ridge of the arms and legs.

Head large, a little broader than long, the crown broad, flat, the muzzle short and rounded; the eye large, paratoid moderate, broad, projecting a little above the tympanum; skin smooth on the back, or with very minute granules, which are larger and conspicuous on the sides and belly; discs of the fingers very large, larger in diameter than the width of the tympanum; tympanum very distinct, nearly as large as the eye and equal to the discs of the fingers, conspicuous, a little longer than broad; the first finger opposite the other three, and joined to the second by a rudimentary membrane, the second and third about ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) one-third webbed, the third and fourth about ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) one-half webbed; the first and second with one each, and the third and fourth with two conspicuous subarticular tubercles each; toes nearly full-webbed, the discs smaller than those of the fingers, interdigital membrane extending from the discs on the outer side to a little below the discs on the inner; subarticular tubercles smaller than on the hands, a small obtuse tubercle on the metatarsus at the base of the innermost toe. The tongue large, roundish, somewhat heart-shaped, bluntly notched behind; inner nostrils large, vomerine teeth situated on two oblong discs obliquely placed apart on the inner margin of the nostrils; general color, green above, yellowish white below; the webs, discs of the feet and hands pinkish above, yellowish below; along the under margin of the lower jaw, shaded with dull greenish; a small pink stripe on the margin below the angle of the mouth to near the shoulder; from the disc of the outer finger along the outer margin of the forearm to the elbow, a cutaneous ridge or fold bounded by a pink or rose stripe, a similar fold and rosy stripe along the outer edge of the fifth toe and metatarsus to the back of the tibia; a narrow cutaneous ridge on the inner side of the metatarsus; the tympanum, inner sides of legs and arms, and the sides below the arms pinkish.

Total length, 3.2 inches; forearm, 0.85 inch; longest finger (4th), 0.9 inch; femur, 1.7 inches; tibia, 1.85 inches; metatarsus, 0.95 inch; outer toe, 1.1 inches; longest (4th), 1.25 inches; from

nostril to posterior margin of tympanum, 0·9 inch; from tip of the snout to centre of orbit 0·65 inch; to angle of the mouth, 1 inch; head, 1 inch by 1·1 inches.

This remarkably handsome species, so conspicuous by the rosy seams on the outer margin of its legs and arms, was obtained on New Ireland, by the Rev. George Brown, and formed part of the large and valuable collection that gentleman made in those latitudes. In having the hands and feet almost fully webbed, this species is not unlike a true *Rhacophorus*, but the tongue and fingers at once separate it from that genus. It comes, however, close to our Australian species *Pelodryas caruleus* (*White*), but differs not only in the colouring in wanting the pink or rosy stripes, but also in being much longer in the limbs, more webbed in the phalanges, and broader and shorter in the head, and in having the paratoid not so high or so largely developed, judging from the single spirit specimen before me.

#### EXHIBITS.

Mr. Masters exhibited the skull of an aboriginal female, remarkable on account of a large oval aperture about 1 inch by  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch at the junction of the two parietal bones. The exhibit was the skull of the "gin" of "King Charley," of Bega. The woman had been accustomed for many years to wear a cap of wet clay upon her head.

Mr. R. D. Ward, M.A., of St. Leonards, exhibited a specimen of a sponge-bearing crab of the genus "Maia."

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MONDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 1877.

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W. J. STEPHENS, M.A., President, in the Chair.

#### DONATIONS.

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